Pass Christian Area 1699 1999

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The Tricentennial

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12 SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

"Biloxi's Tricentennial"

No truer words expressed!

Lisa Cumbest Michiels, Executive Director of the Biloxi Tricentennial Commission, reported recently that Biloxi will have "a historic celebration because some very special people have given their time, effort, energy and most importantly their enthusiastic support to this once-in-a-lifetime event."

"As you would imagine, bringing the celebration to life involves pulling together myriad interlocking details. Volunteers have worked hard to assure that your calendar will be full of fun and festivity throughout the yearlong celebration. Their hard work assures that we will meet the goals of the celebration: to generate community pride, increase tourism, enhance our national image and support long-term business development.

"I especially want to thank (among others) . . . those very supportive members of the board of directors whose positive influences are a catalyst for progress . . . (and the) truly strong supporters who continue to give this 300-year celebration much of their time, experience and integrity.

"To those sponsors who have wholeheartedly committed their cash and service, we are very grateful. Your willingness to "buy in" to this celebration shows your commitment to this community and its growth. We couldn't do it without you.

"If you have not yet gotten behind the celebration, I encourage you, today, to bring your positive efforts to truly the most significant celebration you and I will see in our lifetime.

"I send a personal thanks to all of you for the many "thumbs up" we get while out and about . . . we thank you and know that we are working hard to present a celebration you can be proud of and share with generations to come."

In this same vein, the Pass Christian Area Tricentennial Colonization Committee wishes to thank all of the respondents to the call for support and services performed and in process by the chairs and members of the various sub-committees; and also for answering the call for membership contributions that sustains the *Tricentennial Newsletter*. One of the staunch outcomes of the Pass Christian Committee is to foster enlightenment and information as well as preparing a basis for curriculum development in our school systems for heritage appreciation and historic values.

Jazzy Jennie

No one could have been chosen more befitting to head the ***Jazz in the Pass*** Festival than Jennie Lou Mintz. Jennie Lou, as a former hotelier of her own Atlantic Coast hotel, which results in her knowing what local events mean to tourism development. Since moving to Henderson Point, she and husband, Bob Mintz, have become champion volunteers in a number of organizations.

Jennie Lou has been involved with Jazz Clubs and the promotion of jazz since her earlier days at New Orleans. As a member of the New Orleans Jazz Club, the Mississippi Coast Jazz Society, and past Board Member of the Metropolitan Jazz Club, she still takes time to promote the jam sessions sponsored by the St. Tammany Jazz Club. She makes a point in acquainting herself with the leading bands and members that make the well known music sounds heard around the world. Besides Jennie Lou Mintz, the Jazz Subcommittee for the Tricentennial Committee is composed of Don "Cadillac" Henry, Tim Farnsworth, George Watson, Virgil Harris, Philip Terrell, and Marsha Breaux-Scott.

Letters of invitation are in process of being

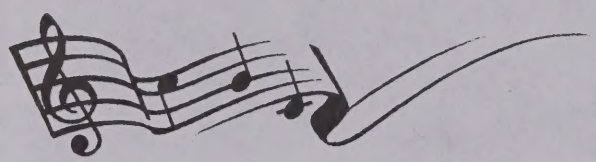
(Continued on page 2)

JAZZY JENNIE

(Continued from page 1)

mailed out to participants and sponsors for the gala occasion scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 1999 at Memorial Park and the VFW. Little known is that Pass Christian is the home of the first Jazz Funeral in Mississippi that attracted almost 4000 admirers and mourners from many states and many countries, honoring Captain John Handy in 1971.

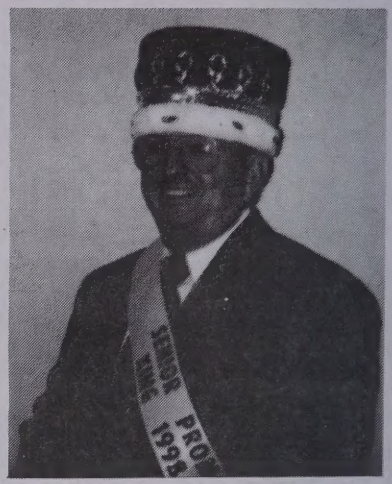
Jazz Education is one of the theme benefits which Jennie Lou is interested in promoting. She seeks to involve school band competitions and to introduce "Umbrella decoration makin' and *Second Line* shakin'." The first Jazz group to confirm attendance for the festival is the famous "Last Straws" of New Orleans. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services or seek information, contact Jennie Lou at 452-7779.



Bark in the Park

Would anyone like to help organize a "Bark in the Park" event for the Pass? This annual dog show is held in Natchez every September. Contest awards are given to various categories which include: Cutest, Ugliest, Friendliest, and most talented. Their 1997 showing had more than 100 dogs registered. Fee admissions are $3 for adults, $1 for kids, and dogs are free. All proceeds go to the Natchez-Adams County Humane Society. This could be a good fundraiser for our local WRAMPS.

SENIOR PROM



Memorial Hospital at Gulfport sponsored another successful gala Senior Prom which has been a grand annual event since 1987. Almost every year since it started 12 years ago the Community Relations Department in charge of Senior Services has had to stage the event at ever larger locations to handle the crowds of seniors who attend the smart occasion. This year, the 1998 Senior Prom was held in the spacious Oasis Ballroom at the new Biloxi Grand Bayview Hotel. The tables were set for 700 invited guests who were treated to an excellent buffet and the music of the Coast's famous maestro, Leon Kelner. Not only was the reigning king from Pass Christian, but nearly a fourth in attendance came from the Pass. Although the invitation called for Semi-formal attire, most of the ladies wore long gowns and the gentlemen were bedecked in their black-tie raiment.

Grinning and thoroughly enjoying his role as "His Highness" was Will Barrentine whose lucky number was drawn from the hat, and then crowned to rule the night in pomp and splendor.

If you want to be in that number and over 55, call the hospital's number, 865-3603, to be placed on the invite list for next September.

CookBook Notes

The "Pass Cuisine CookBook" is gathering more and more very interesting recipes. The seeming tasty morsels would make a great FoodFest if all of the submitters sent in the real dish. If anyone would like to be part of the compiling and editing group, please call 452-3138. In the mean time, keep sending in your favorites.

The Original Families

Conclusion of a Historical Report by Gloria Moran

The Nicaise family came to the New World on the ship *L'Elephante* in 1720. Arriving from Paris, France were Jean and Jacques Nicaise, their wives and five children. Today's descendants were derived from Jacques Nicaise. His son, Jean, married Marie Catherine Miot in 1745. Eight children are recorded as baptized in the Mobile Catholic Cathedral between 1747 and 1765. One of their daughters, Marie Jeanne, married Barthelemy Grelot (Gollott); a son, Jean Baptiste "Martial" Nicaise, married Louise Christian Ladner; and another son, Joseph Nicaise, married Jeanne Dufillette (Dufilly), and moved to Slidell, however, his son returned to settle in the Kiln area where he owned Kiln property and some of the present NASA base land. Another daughter, Marie Louise, married Philippe Saucier.

Prior to 1800, "Martial" Nicaise, listed above, lived in the DeLisle area, where one of his daughters, Judith Nicaise, married Pierre Moran in 1805. This Pierre Moran was a son of Canadian Joseph Moran and Louise Ladner.

There are three annual Spanish census records of the Mobile district, which show Francois Carriere living at Pass Christian in the years 1786, 1787, and 1789. In each of these three Spanish census records, his wife, Julia de la Brosse Asmar Carriere, is shown as thirty-plus years older than her third husband, Francois Carriere.

Nicolas Christian Ladner and his wife, and Joseph Moran and his wife are also shown on these records as living on Cat Island.

The first record of a DeDaux, was regarding two brothers in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. Their parents were Bernard Clement DeDaux, lawyer to the Parliament, and Anne Marie Alexandrine Soule de Lafont of Castelsarrasin, in the Upper Garonne River, in the old province of Languedoc, France.

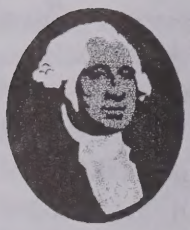
These brothers, Jean Pierre Francois Marie DeDaux and Jean Jacques, married in St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans on the same day, February 10, 1810. They married two sisters, Madeleine and Widow Eugenie Saucier, who were daughters of Philippe Saucier and Marie Louise Nicaise. The Saucier girls died within a few years permitting the older DeDaux to marry Ursule Nicaise and the younger married Isabel (Elizabeth) Gollott.

An 1814 tax roll shows only three names listed as being situated at Pass Christian. They were Charles Asmar, Sr., Charles Asmar, Jr., and a Victor LeCount. At Wolf River (DeLisle) were the widow Barthelemy Grelot (Gollott), Julian and Jean P. Saucier, Pierre and John Moran, Gilbert and Brazile and Jean Baptiste Ladnier, Charles De Lupon, Phillip Maturon, Antonio Bayard, and Michael Dragon, who purchased land from Chevalier DeDaux in 1810.

At today's Long Beach area, "Old Chimneys," were: Claude Ladnier, Joseph Moran the second; Soisint Peare; Lewis Gouidot; George B. Dameron, Joseph Clowers, Joseph Labatt, and Jean Baptiste Carco, married to Pelagie Moran, daughter of the Canadian Joseph Moran.

Editor's Note: *We wish to thank Gloria Moran for her significant historical discourse as presented in this series of very enlightening information during the Colonial period covered during the settlement development under French, British and Spanish controls and during the Independent Republic of West Florida.*

WASHINGTON'S PRESENCE



During the early 1800s, Henry Washington was a Land Surveyor and Map maker. One of the properties he surveyed was the Pellerin deed which encompassed the whole peninsula of Pass Christian ranging from Henderson Point to the center of Long Beach. According to Nap Cassibry, Henry was possibly a nephew of George Washington.

In 1845, there was Colonel Fairfax Washington, a prosperous farmer who settled in Handsboro (now a part of Gulfport). His grandfather, Warner Washington, was a close relative of George Washington,

Still another descendant of Washington is remembered with an historic marker denoting her grave site. She was Frances Parke Lewis Butler, great, granddaughter of Martha Washington and great-niece of General George Washington. Mrs. Butler was the daughter of Nellie Custis and Lawrence Lewis, and wife of Edward George Washington Butler, born February 22, 1800, died September 5, 1888. Interred therein are a son, Edward G.W. Butler, Jr., killed at the Battle of Belmont, Missouri on November 7, 1861; and, a daughter, Caroline, wife of William Turnbull. She died on September 16, 1876.

During unveiling ceremonies on July 21, 1976, at the Trinity Episcopal Church grounds in Pass Christian, the official family honoree was Richard Morgan of Gulfport, himself, a direct descendant of John Washington, an uncle of General George Washington. And John Washington was a prominent physician in the Pass during the 1890s.

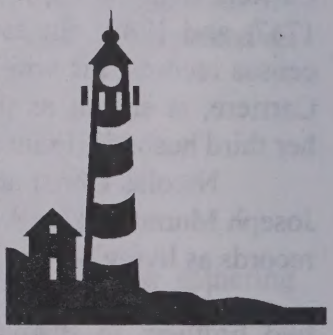
The metal marker on the Trinity Park grounds facing U.S. Highway 90, reflects that Mrs. Butler was born November 27, 1797 and died June 30, 1875 in Pass Christian where she had been a resident for many years.

The marker was donated by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Pass Christian Bicentennial Commission and for a number of years following Hurricane Camille, the commemorative marker was thought to be lost, but was found and planted back at its location. For the upcoming 150-year, sesquicentennial anniversary of Trinity Episcopal Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution have refreshed the marker with a new coat of paint.

A Camellia bush planted in front of the former Butler home still blooms on Scenic Drive. The tender cuttings were brought from Mount Vernon, the seeds of George and Martha Washington were continued along the Gulf Coast and at the Pass. Among some of those to blossom are Mrs. Lawrence Yarbrough and Mrs. Richard Cromwell, Washington descendants.

A further presence of significance, is a set of fire-place tools originally belonging to George Washington. These tools were brought to the Pass by Miss Lulu Watts, former owner of *Villa Karma.* She presented the tongs and shovel to John H. Lang, and are now in possession of his grandson, Eaton Lang, who still uses them when not adorning his fireside.

Lighthouse News



Buddy Diboll has been gathering more factual data and drawing to-scale sketches for the final determination of the architectural model which he is laying out. In the process, John Lang and John Mykolyk have aided him. Diboll's enthusiasm is rubbing off on a number of people who wished that the model was the real thing. Here in Pass Christian, the first Lighthouse along the Mississippi Sound mainland was built in 1831, followed by the Cat Island lighthouse during the same year.

Queen City -- Growth and Improprieties

by Dan Ellis

The Spanish Census of 1785, reported the New Orleans population as 4,980. Within the next 20 years, between 1804 and 1810, New Orleans had doubled to reach 25,000. Its permanent resident base consisted of the *Creoles* who at that time were defined as those descendants of French or Spanish ancestry. Included, also, were 2000 *free people of color*.

However, Anglo-Americans, Europeans, and refugees from the West Indies accounted for the meaningful population increase. They were part of the daily arrival of transients composed of bargemen, flat-boatmen, and raftsmen from Ohio, Tennessee, and the Cumberland. Upon selling their products and even the lumber from their vessels, they remained for an extended stay while abandoning all courtesies and civilities. These were further challenged by sailors from all the ports of the world who took sides according to nationality in bloody street riots and night brawls.

To add to the unruly street scene were roving bands of drunken Choctaws compiled by the open flagrancy of the Baratarian pirates including their leaders, Jean and Pierre Laffite. Governor Claiborne had to rule with a mounted *Gendarmerie* and called upon the city militia and country militia who, sometimes, even clashed between themselves.

In the next ten years, 1820-30, commercial trade nearly doubled and so did the population which reached 50,000 inhabitants who were swelled by 5000 strangers consisting mostly of wild, restless, and unemployed transients.

In the decade from 1830 to 1840, the population once more doubled, which resulted in New Orleans becoming the fourth largest city in the United States. The local scene became one of depravity and corruption. The Creole had never been a strong moral force; the Americans came seeking wealth to grab and run; the European immigrants were the dregs of their countries; and, the West Indians were leaders in licentiousness, gambling and dueling; while the free-men-of-color assembled in open-air African dances, carousals, and debaucheries at the *Congo Square*, joined by Creoles and St. Domingans who sought lively entertainment.

Genteel social life was displayed only by the Creoles, who shut the door on all strangers. Glamorous celebrations such as grand balls, stately affairs, and quadroon masques were sustained only by the Creoles of the city.

The city grew, broadened and lengthened as hundreds of houses were constructed of home-made brick and imported granite.

In 1840 there were nearly as many Negroes as there were Whites, however, by 1850, with the Abolitionist movement and concern for slave uprisings, the white ratio increased to nearly 80 percent due to the expulsions of many free-men-of-color and mulattos.

In that same year, New Orleans went through a transformation by renovations and new building constructions. The original cathedral was torn down and replaced with a more elegant structure. The Pontalba buildings replaced the shabby store buildings and the Place d'Armes became a beautiful park centered by the mounted statue of the hero of the Battle of New Orleans and renamed Jackson Square.

By 1860, New Orleans rose to a prouder commercial exaltation and was known internationally as the "Queen City." It had grown considerably during its past 140 years, when the scene was dominated only by a hundred palmetto-thatched huts surrounded by swamp. The year following the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson stated in 1804, "The position of New Orleans certainly destines it to be the greatest city the world has ever seen."

TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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Emanuel V. Benjamin
Adele Bielenberg
Geraldine Bishop
Cornelia Boudreaux
Thomas Bourdin
Isleta Braun
Dorothy Ewing Brown
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George & Nancy Byrne
Helen Currie Caire
Burton & Emilie Cary
Julia Cerra
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Richard L. Ward
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Henderson Pt/PC Isles Asso.
P.C. Garden Club
P.C. High School Alumni Asso
P.C. Historical Society
Rotary Club of Pass Christian
Timber Ridge Property Owners

Why d'Iberville?

Some folks have asked why so much ado about d'Iberville, rather than Nicholas Christian Ladner whose name is honored in Pass Christian. Actually, the Tricentennial Colonization Committee desires to commemorate all of the personalities that cast a shadow upon our history. The reason for d'Iberville is because he was the first of the French Colonization period. For that matter some folks even question why Pass Christian is celebrating a 300th year event if it all happened in Biloxi or Ocean Springs. D'Iberville will be commemorated again on March 30, 1999 in a joint Long Beach/Pass Christian celebration at Pitcher Point. The 30th is a Tuesday, but that was the day that d'Iberville's small party paddled their way back to Ship Island after exploring the Mississippi River. Reenactments will be presented on d'Iberville's night ashore before reaching Ship Island, Nicholas Christian Ladner, Juan Cuevas, the pirate, Captain Pitcher, and Dr. Flood's raising the American Flag in 1811.

As another point on d'Iberville, the first real estate subdivision created in Pass Christian was by August Clause, an heir of Freed Negro Charles Asmard. Clause had a portion of Gulf front property platted into smaller lots and named the subdivision *"D'Ibervilleburg."*

Gather round the Flag!

As Chairman of the Flag subcommittee of the TriCentennial Committee, Dayton Robinson has been scouring catalogs and flag stores in Louisisiana and Mississippi to find and verify the actual flags which flew over the Coast, and in particular, Pass Christian. So far, arrivals of eight flags have been unsheathed and the standards decorate the City Hall Board Room. But, eight is not enough, besides the "Pass Christian" flag that is encased at the Historical Society, Dayton has three more flags on order, which will make the total number of flags for our city to be a **Grand Dozen**.

EARLY MILITARY AT THE PASS

In 1811, Dr. Flood estimated the population of Biloxi Parish (all of Hancock and Harrison counties) to be 420, "principally French and natives of Louisiana, a people more innocent and less offending than any I ever saw." Flood also wrote how favorably impressed he was with the beauty and value of the coast. "He predicted that the high sandy lands, heavily timbered with pine, and the lovely bays and rivers, from the Pearl River to Mobile, will furnish New Orleans with a rich commerce, and with a delightful summer resort, and for a cantonment or military post, in consideration of the health of the troops, this whole coast is admirably fitted." as reported by J.F.H. Claiborne.

In preparing for defense of the Coast and the City of New Orleans during the War of 1812, the 3rd Regiment of Infantry of the United States Army was transferred to Pass Christian. At Henderson Point, a range of barracks and officers' houses were built and was maintained as a military cantonment for a 200-man garrison when American rule and law were imported east of the Pearl.

Yacht Club in Glory

With more than 20 clubs to compete against, Danny Killeen Jr., Team Captain for the "Sr. Lipton," was proud of first place winners, John F. Dane, John Dane III, Eric Doyle and Kevin Northrop. Not to be outdone was Team Captain Oliver Peneguy, whose "Jr. Lipton" winning skippers, were David Taylor, Jr., Will Seemann and Ben Tuckett.

Next year, the Pass Christian Yacht Club will not only host the annual Lipton Regatta, but in addition to the Tricentennial Year, will celebrate its Sesquicentennial as birth place of Southern Yachting in 1849, just 150 years after d'Iberville's sounding of the same channel that accompanies our shores. Hosting the internationally famous Lipton Regatta is another tribute to the skippers at PCYC in addition to the distinction it brings to the city. The Gulf Yachting Association will also be celebrating the 80th year challenge for the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup.

NEW HOURS AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society building is now open five days a week, Monday through Friday everyday from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come by and welcome the volunteers who work these shifts. Thanks to Dr. W.K. Stewart, Mary Catherine Ward, Julia Cerra, Gerry Bishop, Jean Moreland, Adele Bielenberg, Otis Trepagnier, Dottie Cooper, Bill Carlin, Betty Carlin, Jessie Heitzman, and Signe Wagner.

NEW HOURS AT LIBRARY

Effective October 1st, the P.C. Library posts new hours.

Mon -- Thurs 8:a.m. - 6:p.m.
Fridays -- 8:a.m. - 5:p.m.
Saturdays -- 9:a.m. - 5:p.m.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jayme Condra	452-4224
Dan Ellis	452-3138
Dayton Robinson	452-4543

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